

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

February 20, 2007

ITEM 89

The Governor's budget proposes to allocate 400 million dollars to the counties for capitol outlays for Juvenile facilities. If approved, this gives Los Angeles County a unique opportunity to address the much needed improvements to our juvenile camps and halls.

The Probation Department is developing a comprehensive action plan to implement evidence-based practices in its juvenile halls, juvenile camps, and field services. The plan addresses the management and program audits ordered by the Board, U.S. Department of Justice findings in the three juvenile halls, as well as preliminary findings from the recent Department of Justice investigations into a number of juvenile camps.

Part of this comprehensive plan includes reprogramming the six Challenger Memorial Youth Center camps to provide evidence based practices interventions/services to medium and high-risk boys age 15 to 18, including but not limited to:

1. Correctional skills training of camp staff and supervisors;
2. Cognitive-behavioral and other evidence based interventions which

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should reduce juvenile criminal recidivism;

3. Implementing quality assurance measures by camp supervisors and directors to ensure staff training and effective implementation of evidence based interventions; and
4. Measurement, evaluation and reporting of outcomes.

Of all our camp facilities, the six challenger camps face the most urgent need for physical and staffing re-design.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE:

The Probation Department, with assistance of the Chief Administrative Office, be directed to identify and cost out the capital improvements necessary to alter the physical plant of the six Challenger camps to be consistent with planned staffing and evidence based practices and services. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Reconfiguration of dormitory space to provide smaller, contained living units that promote a therapeutic living environment as well as individual responsibility and accountability;
2. Provision of space to relocate camp Deputy Probation Officers to cubicles in the dormitories and the classrooms or immediately adjacent thereto for more direct supervision of youth in a manner that is consistent with Department of Justice's calculation of staff to youth ratios (1:10);
3. Provision of separate space for multidisciplinary staff from Probation, Mental Health, Health Services and Education; and
4. Provision of adequate space for high school education classes and workshops for vocational education purposes.

I, FURTHER, MOVE:

1. That the Probation Department, with assistance of the Chief Administrative Office be directed to explore the availability of funding from the State of California for both the above capital improvements to the Challenger camp facilities and the increased operating costs that would be associated with such changes in the physical plant.
2. The Chief Administrative Officer be directed to determine the timeframe of completing the reconfiguration of the Challenger camps.
3. The Probation Department and the CAO should provide a joint written report to the Board with the above information within 60 days.